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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS TRENTON (LPD-14)
FPO NEW YORK 09588-1716

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From: Commanding Officer, USS TRENTON (LPD 14)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
Washington, DC 20374-0571

Subj: 1990 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3750.12E

Encl: (1) Photograph and biography of Captain James A. Curtis,
USN
(2) 1990 Chronology
(3) 1990 Command Narrative
(4) TRENTON Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(5) Photograph of USS TRENTON
(6) 1990 Press Releases

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following is submitted.

a. Background: USS TRENTON (LPD 14), an amphibious transport dock, is named for the historical capital of New Jersey that was founded by an 18th century ship owner and businessman, Colonel William Trent. The present USS TRENTON is the third U.S. vessel to bear the name. The first was a steam sloop of war commissioned in 1874. The second was a light cruiser, CL-111, commissioned in 1924, which served with Asiatic, Caribbean and Southeast Pacific Fleets during World War II. The keel for the present TRENTON was laid on 8 August 1966. She was christened on 3 August 1968 by Mrs. Richard J. Hughes, wife of the then governor of New Jersey. TRENTON has since participated in the 1983 liberation of Grenada, was a member of the multinational force off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon in 1983-1984, and was a participant in Operation "PRAYING MANTIS" in April 1988 while deployed to the Persian Gulf. In 1989 she participated in the historic Presidential Summit off the coast of Malta.

b. Mission: TRENTON's mission is to transport, land, and support marine forces on a hostile shore. The Amphibious Transport Dock (LPD) is a very versatile class of amphibious ship. TRENTON can carry over 900 troops plus their vehicles, equipment, weapons, ammunition and supplies. She also carries landing craft in her floodable well deck and topside, and she can operate helicopters and VTOL aircraft from her flight deck.

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c. Commanding Officer: Captain James A. Curtis, USN,
01 January to 31 December 1990.

d. Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia.

e. Command Association: Under operational command of
Commander, Amphibious Squadron Six, 01 January to 11 April and 14
August to 31 December 1990. Under administrative command of
Commander, Amphibious Squadron Twelve, 01 January to 31 December
1990 and under their operational command 11 April to 14 August
1990.

f. Deployments: Mediterranean - 01 January to 11 April 1990.
Middle East - 14 August to 31 December 1990.

g. Exercises and Operations: MARG 1-90, Mayflower Phiblex,
Operation "JUST CAUSE", TCAT 4-90, Operation "DESERT SHIELD", Sea
Soldier I and II, Operation "IMMINENT THUNDER" and Maritime
Interdiction Force Operations.

h. Embarked Units:

Elements of 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit	01 JAN - 10 APR
LCU 1664	01 JAN - 11 APR
SEAL Team Four	08 FEB - 02 MAR
SEAL Team Eight	14 AUG - 31 DEC
Special Boat Unit Twenty	14 AUG - 31 DEC
ACE 2, Constuction Battalion Detachment	14 AUG - 31 DEC
Beachmaster Unit Two	14 AUG - 31 DEC
LCU 1644	14 AUG - 31 DEC
Brigade Service Support Group Four	15 AUG - 31 DEC
Second Force Reconnaissance Company,	
Second Platoon	15 AUG - 31 DEC
HMM 461, Detachment "D"	15 AUG - 31 DEC

i. Statistics:

- 1) Nautical Miles Travelled 1990: 34,128 nm
- 2) Ship's Fuel Consumed: 3,082,989 Gallons
- 3) Engine Miles Travelled: 48,564 nm
- 4) Fuelings at Sea: 16
- 5) Aircraft Landings:
 - Helicopter Landings CY '90: 2271
 - Harrier Jet Landings CY '90: 3
 - Total Aircraft Landings, Ship's History: 31,141
- 6) JP5 Aviation Fuel Delivered: 720,724 Gallons

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- 7) Large Caliber Ammunition Expended:
 - 3" 50 cal: 70 Rounds
 - CIWS: 1147 Rounds
- 8) New Weapons Systems: Two 25mm Gun Mounts
- 9) Underway Replenishments: 15
- 10) 1990 Budget:
 - Repair Parts: \$767,000
 - Consumables: \$532,000
 - Total Cost Salaries and Expenses: \$6,400,000
- j. Chronology: Attached as enclosure (2)
- k. Narrative: Attached as enclosure (3)


S. H. RIES

1990 CHRONOLOGY

01 - 02 JAN	Inport Naples, Italy
03 - 04 JAN	Underway for St. Raphael, France/ Marine Offload
05 - 11 JAN	Inport Toulon, France
12 - 16 JAN	Underway, Western Mediterranean
17 - 25 JAN	Inport Toulon, France
26 - 30 JAN	Underway, Mayflower Phiblex
31 JAN - 05 FEB	Inport, Villefranche, France
06 - 07 FEB	Underway, Western Mediterranean
08 FEB	Inport Augusta Bay, Sicily for MARG Reconfiguration
09 - 11 FEB	Transit Mediterranean for Haifa, Israel
12 FEB - 03 MAR	Inport Haifa, Israel for IMAV
04 - 07 MAR	Underway for Naples, Italy
08 - 11 MAR	Inport Naples, Italy
10 MAR	Vice Admiral Donnell Visits
12 MAR	Underway to anchorage in Naples Bay due to Tugboat Strike
13 - 20 MAR	Underway, Amphibious Operations Pian di Spille, Italy
21 MAR	Rigid Raider Craft Operations, Gibraltar
22 MAR	Transit to Rota, Spain
23 - 24 MAR	Inport Rota, Spain for Offload and Washdown
25 MAR	Underway for OPPE Preparations
26 - 28 MAR	Inport Rota, Spain for Backload and Turnover with USS PONCE (LPD 15)
29 MAR - 09 APR	Transit Atlantic Ocean for CONUS
01 - 03 APR	OPPE, Passed with Grade of Above Average
10 APR	Inport Morehead City, NC, Offload 24th MEU
11 APR	Arrive Norfolk, VA, MARG 1-90 Complete
11 APR - 21 MAY	Inport Norfolk, VA
22 - 25 MAY	Underway, DLQ's Onslow Bay, NC Embarked "Scientists to Sea"
26 - 30 MAY	Inport Norfolk, VA
31 MAY	Underway for Metro Shipyard, Norfolk, VA
01 - 03 JUN	Harborfest, TRENTON Host Ship
04 - 10 JUN	Underway for Panama, Operation "JUST CAUSE"
11 JUN	Transit Panama Canal

11 -12 JUN	Inport Naval Station Rodman Onload Marine Task Force "Semper Fi"
13 JUN	Transit Panama Canal
4 - 17 JUN	Underway for CONUS
18 JUN	Inport Morehead City, NC for Marine Offload
19 JUN - 08 JUL	Inport Norfolk, VA
09 - 13 JUL	Underway DLQ's, Rigid Raider Craft Operations, Onslow Bay, NC
14 - 29 JUL	Inport Norfolk, VA
16 - 18 JUL	COMNAVSURFLANT 3-M Inspection
30 JUL	Inport, Yorktown, VA for Munitions Onload
31 JUL - 09 AUG	Underway, TCAT 4-90, Onslow Bay, NC
10 - 13 AUG	Inport Norfolk, VA
14 AUG	Underway, Operation "DESERT SHIELD"
15 AUG	Inport Morehead City, NC, Marine Onload
16 - 26 AUG	Underway, Transit Atlantic Ocean
27 AUG	Transit Strait of Gibraltar
28 AUG - 02 SEP	Transit Mediterranean Sea
03 SEP	Transit Suez Canal
04 - 07 SEP	Transit Red Sea
10 SEP	Arrive On Station, North Arabian Sea
29 SEP - 05 OCT	Amphibious Exercise Sea Soldier I, Oman
06 - 29 OCT	On Station, North Arabian Sea
29 OCT	Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Gray, Visits TRENTON
30 OCT - 08 NOV	Amphibious Exercise Sea Soldier II, Oman, TRENTON Advance Forces Commander
09 - 11 NOV	Maritime Interdiction Force Exercises
12 - 14 NOV	On Station, North Arabian Sea
15 NOV	Transit Strait of Hormuz
16 NOV	Transit Persian Gulf
17 - 21 NOV	Operation "IMMINENT THUNDER", TRENTON Advance Forces Commander
22 NOV	Thanksgiving, Anchored Vicinity of Bahrain
23 NOV	Transit Strait of Hormuz into North Arabian Sea

24 - 29 NOV	EMAT, Underway North Arabian Sea
30 NOV	Transit Strait of Hormuz into Persian Gulf
01 - 04 DEC	Inport, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, at sea for 110 days
05 DEC	Underway, Persian Gulf
06 - 18 DEC	Inport Dubai, United Arab Emirates for RAV
19 DEC	Underway, Transit Strait of Hormuz
20 DEC	Underway, North Arabian Sea
21 - 23 DEC	Anchored, Southern Masirah Anchorage
24 - 30 DEC	Underway, North Arabian Sea
26 DEC	Maritime Interdiction Force Operation, Iraqi Ship IBN KHALDOON boarded
30 DEC	Maritime Interdiction Force Operation, Iraqi Tanker AIN ZALLAH Boarded
31 DEC	Anchored, Southern Masirah Anchorage

COMMAND NARRATIVE

The New Year found USS TRENTON enjoying holiday festivities in the Italian port of Naples. Not a ship to rest for long, she was soon underway for Toulon, France. There, the embarked elements of the 24th MEU engaged in training exercises in the French interior. TRENTON was underway for a week to conduct her own training exercises. After a port visit to Villefranche, France, where the officers and crew were feted by the town fathers, TRENTON proceeded to Sicily. The USS PORTLAND (LSD 37) had been tasked with a mission to Tunisia and TRENTON was tasked with the onload of PORTLAND's Advance Force capabilities. The exchange of men and equipment occurred at Augusta Bay. From there, TRENTON sailed to Haifa, Israel for a three week IMAV period. The IMAV proved to be a successful work period, attaining all the projected goals.

TRENTON enjoyed another port visit to Naples, Italy while enroute to amphibious exercises at Pian di Spille. The visit was cut short due to an impending tugboat strike. The Italian exercise led into the final MARG 1-90 operational exercise. The Rigid Raider Craft embarked aboard TRENTON engaged in night time, over the horizon exercises off the coast of Gibraltar. This was the most vigorous exercise of its kind during the deployment and was accomplished flawlessly.

TRENTON then moved on to Rota, Spain for washdown and outchop. During the transit westward across the Atlantic, TRENTON underwent an Operational Propulsion Plant Examination. The ship received an overall grade of above average for the OPPE and the crew's performance led to the examiners proclaiming TRENTON the standard by which all other amphibious ships should be judged.

Upon their arrival in Morehead City, North Carolina, TRENTON offloaded the members of the 24th MEU and unloaded crewmember's dependents for the "Tiger Cruise" to Norfolk. While at Lynnhaven anchorage to offload the LCU, TRENTON learned she had earned the coveted "Top Gator" appellation for her consistently top notch performance during the six month deployment. She then entered a thirty day leave and upkeep period.

Another TRENTON honor was to act as the Navy host ship during the Norfolk Harborfest in early June. During the three day festival, TRENTON hosted thousands of visitors, providing them with a first hand glimpse of the Gator Navy.

No sooner were the hospitality lights taken down than TRENTON was once again underway, this time tasked with the withdrawal from Panama of U.S. Expeditionary forces involved in Operation "JUST CAUSE." Contending with possible hostilities, strict deadlines and rapidly changing Panama Canal schedules, TRENTON's crew expertly managed time and available assets to onload over 300 troops, 63 combat vehicles, two riverine patrol boats and their support equipment in under 24 hours - an evolution planned for 96 hours.

In mid August, TRENTON again displayed exceptional versatility. Returning from TCAT 4-90, she was given only 72 hours notice that she was on her way to the Persian Gulf as part of a military build up in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Departing on the morning of 14 August, TRENTON was the first amphibious ship to leave Naval Base, Norfolk. During the nearly thirty day transit to the Arabian Sea, TRENTON trained extensively for the possibilities of both conventional and chemical warfare.

Once on station in the Middle East, TRENTON continued to excel as Advance Force Commander during amphibious exercises in Oman and Saudi Arabia. TRENTON's embarked Special Units also led to her involvement in Maritime Interdiction Force Operations conducted in support of United Nations Sanctions against Iraq.

Along with her other amphibious duties, TRENTON was the supply hub of the Fourth Marine Expeditionary Brigade. With her embarked element of Brigade Service Support Group Four coordinating all 4th MEB supply efforts to an 8,000 man MEB loaded on thirteen amphibious and two maritime amphibious ships, TRENTON received and distributed literally tons of supplies, parts and materials to the MEB. For the first time in Navy/Marine Corps history, a MEB was supplied and sustained at sea. With over 5000 individual shipments being made to 15 ships, pound for pound, TRENTON's air department provided more aviation services than any other amphibious ship deployed to the Persian Gulf. TRENTON was also the only LPD to simultaneously embark and operate three dissimilar helicopter types.

In early December, TRENTON made her first port call after 110 days at sea. Following this visit to Abu Dhabi, TRENTON proceeded to Dubai, United Arab Emirates for a twelve day RAV. Full advantage was taken of the shipyard time and all necessary repairs were made.

TRENTON spent the holidays in the Northern Arabian Sea. Christmas day proved to be a time of practice for the possible upcoming MIF operations, which turned into reality the following day. Following two early morning boardings of Iraqi ships attempting to run the United Nations blockade, TRENTON rang out the year 1990 at anchor in the Arabian Sea.

CAPTAIN JAMES A. CURTIS

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS TRENTON (LPD 14)

CAPTAIN JAMES A. CURTIS, A NATIVE OF (b) (6) ENLISTED IN THE U.S. NAVY IN 1959, WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED IN 1962, AND GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN 1966.

HE WAS COMMISSIONED THROUGH OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, IN 1968 AND RECEIVED HIS WINGS AT ELLYSON FIELD, FLORIDA, IN 1969. HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT WAS WITH HA(L)-3 IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. IN JUNE, 1971, HE WAS ATTACHED TO HS-7.

FOLLOWING A TOUR AS AN N.R.O.T.C. INSTRUCTOR AT THE CITADEL, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, WHERE HE WAS ALSO AWARDED A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE, HE SERVED WITH HS-5 AND COMHSWINGONE IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

HE REPORTED TO HS-11, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, IN JANUARY 1983, AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ASSUMING COMMAND IN JUNE, 1984. AFTER COMMANDING HS-1 (1986-1987), HE REPORTED TO NMPC, WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE HE SERVED AS BRANCH HEAD FOR OFFICER, PLANS, POLICY AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT.

CAPTAIN CURTIS ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE USS TRENTON (LPD 14) AUGUST 18, 1989. SINCE THEN, TRENTON HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT AT MALTA, OPERATION "JUST CAUSE" IN PANAMA, AND IS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED AS PART OF OPERATION "DESERT SHIELD" IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

AMONG HIS MANY MILITARY AWARDS ARE THE SILVER STAR, THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, THE LEGION OF MERIT, TWO MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS AND THIRTY-TWO AIR MEDALS.

CAPTAIN CURTIS IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER (b) (6) OF (b) (6). THEY HAVE TWO SONS: (b) (6) LIVING IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA AND (b) (6) LIVING IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.